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Feb. 12, 2024

Attn: Committee Members

Re: Senate Bill 468

I am writing to express my concern with Senate Bill 468 and the negative effects it could have on development projects. Development in rural areas of the State can be extremely challenging financially and the ability to utilize incentive tools is extremely important to the economic development and community development process. Should this bill move forward, I can not imagine our municipalities within Harvey County offering incentives in the future, and the result would effectively be to stunt development in Kansas. My organization is currently working with 3 projects that are utilizing IRB financing, with a total capital investment of \$20.9M. Projects like these are huge to our economy. They pay above the average wage for their industrial NAICS code, they offer employee benefits, and they allow our citizens opportunities. These industrial projects create primary jobs and create opportunities and support to our other business sectors and non-profits. We are on a great path for growth and creating a better quality of place in Newton and Harvey County. Please continue to allow local elected officials the ability to make the best decisions for their municipality. Please vote no on SB468.

Should it be helpful, I would be happy to visit with any of the committee members and share more in depth the reasons for my opposition. Thank you for your time in reading my concerns and for all you do for our State.

Respectfully,

Beth Shelton

Beth Shelton

Executive Director

Harvey County Economic Development